

The Onyx Informer

Founded in 1972

Northeastern's Newspaper Designed for People of Color

February 1997

A 'Perfect World'?

By Linda Betharte

Students were allowed to voice their opinions on issues of race in America. The forum was provided by the 'Perfect World Workshop', sponsored by the Latin American Student Organization and the Minority Student Advisory Board, on the 23rd of last month. The discussion lasted longer than was expected and focused in on issues of diversity in today's society such as: interracial dating, biracial children, growing up among people of another race, stereotypes and portrayals of those stereotypes.

Interracial dating was one of the more controversial topics of the discussion which many black women in the room expressed strong feelings about.

"It is not that I'm against interracial dating. I'm against feeling that I am not good enough for my black brother's because of my skin tone," said Natasha Scott, a sophomore at Northeastern. "As a dark African-American woman it is hard to find acceptable mates."

"Black men can date white



Tony Hernandez



Luisa Melo



Jeremiah Shepherd



Melanie Robinson

All photos by Nuri

women, Latinas, Chinese women, etc. But black women don't have those same advantages," added Scott. "It is much more unlikely to find a mate that is not black because lighter skinned men do not find dark skinned women as attractive as lighter skinned women. So if all the black men are with women of other colors, who are we (dark skin women) supposed to date?"

The same feelings were expressed by Kim Jones, a senior at NU, who said, "Some black men are constantly dating white women."

At the beginning of the workshop students were asked to form groups and write down the first thing that came to mind when they saw the words, "black people are...", "white people are...", "Asians people are...", "Latino people are..." and "biracial people are..."

The groups were then to look at the words that another group wrote down, figure out the group that was being described and perform a silent skit that alert everyone in the audience who they were trying to portray.

Black people were charac-

terized as lazy, loud, good dancers and 'gangsters'; Latino's were portrayed as overly flirtatious and exaggerated. Asians were described very rich and intelligent, whites were thought of as snobs and biracial people were just thought of as 'confused'.

Many people in the audience offered the solution of taking care of responsibility of racism in the community. Elvis Cordova, former president of LASO felt the best way of to 'rid ourselves of racism and stereotypes was by getting to know other cul-

tures.' Perhaps the acting black phenomena is a result of getting to know a culture on the surface, or perhaps only one aspect of a culture. A deeper knowledge of the people around us as well as ourselves might help destroy all stereotypes.

Perhaps black men like the ones Natasha Scott and Kim Jones were talking about will finally abandon the old phrase; 'If your light your all right, if your brown your down, but if your black jump back.'

Fourteenth Annual Oratory Competition a Success

By Maximillian Shell Crawford

The annual Dean Roland E. Latham oratory celebrated its fourteenth year on February 11th. The idea for the oratory was first started by the deans of the Minority Student Affairs, Dean Roland E. Latham, and James Keith Motley in 1983. Latham's widow, Dorothy, who attended the competition was recognized for her husband's efforts and received a warm standing ovation.

In recent years the oratory has become a tradition now upheld by the African-American Institute. However, on this night, this year's oratory competition took place in the Curry Ballroom instead of the Institute.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated presented a book award to two freshmen before the oratory started. The criteria for these freshmen to receive this award was a 3.0 or higher grade point average and involvement in community service activities. Kadesh Simms and Roberto Ortiz Jr. were the recipients of this award.

As for the oratory itself, each student who participated in the event was graded on content of their speech, delivery, presentation, time management, and eye contact. The freshmen and the upperclassmen in to different competitions. The freshmen participants were Michael Fitzpatrick, Kenisha Steward, Menardo Matos, and Roy McDonald. Once the freshmen were finished competing Tamara Griffith, Mona Lisa Faz, Tony Hernandez, Iyeoaka Okoawa, Jani Raynor, and Claude Sneed each had their seven minutes to hold the audiences' attention.

While waiting for the judges to tally up the scores Continued on page 4



Linda Betharte (left) and Sparkle Callender practice walking at NBESS fashion show rehearsal.

Photo by Nuri

King convocation looks towards future with optimism

By Wambui Wamunyu

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us

Facing the rising sun of the new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

(taken from Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing by James W. Johnson and Rosamond Johnson).

Selflessness, individual transformation and community involvement were issues that emerged during the Dr. Martin Luther King convocation, held on January 16, 1997, at Northeastern University's Blackman Auditorium. The ceremony, held as part of the festivities surrounding the inauguration of Dr. Richard Freeland, the sixth president of Northeastern University, had as its theme, "The Urban Mission: Continuing the Quest for Justice."

The Master of Ceremonies, Professor David Hall, Dean of the School of Law spoke of social problems in urban centers and Northeastern's efforts of being an active member of its community, through programs such as the Tobin Scholars. He said "We must ignite a social and spiritual fire ... that will leave this world better than we found it."

Dr. Freeland, said that the more obvious signs of racism such as night-sticks and dogs in King's day, had been replaced by "demagogues with weapons more subtle."

Freeland also paid tribute to Ellen Jackson, Dean of the Affirmative Action program with the first

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ONYX INFORMER

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Onyx '97: A new beginning

By Conway A. Downing

Well reader here it is, the all new 1997 edition of *The Onyx Informer*. I hope that you enjoy it, because bringing it to you was no easy task. Why was it difficult to produce this paper? Well to answer this question I'll have to take you back to the beginning of this Fall quarter when Dean Ella Robertson and Bob Sprague, the Media Board Advisor put out an appeal to all minority students (particularly black and Latinos) to fill all positions of the paper. Until the efforts of my staff and I to revive *The Onyx*, the paper had been defunct for almost two years. This presented two major problems:

1. The proud 20 year tradition that *The Onyx* had as a medium for minorities to express themselves and voice their opinions about the university was going to come to an abrupt end.

2. Since *The Onyx Informer* had not published in over a year, the media board (the main officials that oversee all NU student publication matters such as spending and budgets) was contemplating taking the money set aside for *The Onyx's* budget and spreading out among other smaller NU publications. This course of action would have expunged the university (as well as the minority community) of *The Onyx forever*.

The movement to resurrect *The Onyx* began to pick up steam in mid-October when dozens of interested students attended an informal meeting in Mr. Sprague's office. Sprague pulled no punches as he explained the then current state of the paper and many obstacles to publishing it with the group assembled in his office.

The most important obstacle being *The Onyx's* need for an editor, preferably one with experience in newspaper production. Unfortunately, none of the people assembled had that experience. Undaunted, three equally qualified people were interviewed by members of the Student Media Board to be selected as the editor of *The Onyx*.

Although the editor of *The Onyx* had been installed, the problems of the paper were far from over. Sprague still had to develop the core staff of the paper (significantly lower than the original turn-

out) as newspaper writers and help them develop story ideas. Surprisingly, this process took only a few weeks as the staff of *The Onyx* began to report, research and (OMIGOSH) write their stories. Everything was going according to plan and the paper was set published at the end of the quarter. That was until finals week snuck up on us and forced the paper's drop date to be pushed back until the Winter quarter.

Despite this minor setback, *The Onyx* staff persevered and wrote new stories and brought back new ideas for the papers format. Those ideas were the backbone of the paper that you now hold in your hand and in my opinion damn good ideas. So on behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you the reader for picking up the new (and much improved) edition of *The Onyx Informer*.

However, I would also like to remind you that this paper is as much yours as it is the staff's and mine. As I said before, if *The Onyx* did not publish this year, it would have never published again. Because of several cutbacks to the paper's budget, *The Onyx* only has enough money to publish two issues (this includes the one that you are reading) for the entire year!

If you are a writer, a poet, photographer or even a movie critic I am inviting you to join *The Onyx* and let your voice be heard about issues that concern you. WE NEED YOUR HELP in making sure that *The Onyx* will never die.

At this time I would like to thank my entire staff and writing contributors for their hard work and dedication of seeing the dream of publishing the paper come true (it could not have been done without you!). I would also like to thank dean Robertson and Mr. Sprague (even though they both did not want to receive credit for this achievement) for reaching out and making *The Onyx's* state known.

I also would like to thank all of the doubters and naysayers who thought that *The Onyx Informer* would never be published again. Your negative thoughts and comments only made my staff work that much harder to make sure that it did. It was a real pleasure to prove you all wrong!

The new struggle

Dean Robertson congratulates the new staff

By Dean Ella Robertson

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and support to the young brothers and sisters who have stepped forward and committed themselves to the salvation of *The Onyx Informer*. The commitment of these young people has rekindled my faith in our Black student population and is a clear indicator that the work of the Black alumni was not in vain.

The Onyx has been the voice of Black students for over 25 years and was established at a time when Black students needed a way to express their issues and concerns with the university. Upon hearing that *The Onyx* was in trouble and had not published during the 1995-

96 academic year, I had to re-assess myself and my schedule and get back IN THE STRUGGLE. In the struggle was the term used in the 60's and 70's as the needs of Black students were being addressed and met.

Out of the struggle, came the services for Black students that presently exist and are often taken for granted.

Out of the struggle, came the African-American Institute.

Out of the struggle, came the Office of Minority Student Affairs.

Out of the struggle, came the Martin Luther King Scholarship.

Out of the struggle, came the African-American

Studies Department.

Out of the struggle, came Black administrators, faculty and staff.

Out of the struggle, came Black oriented shows on WRBB.

Out of the struggle, came *THE ONYX INFORMER*.

The struggle goes on in the 90's. *The Onyx* is a way to keep a watchful eye on the struggle. It is my vision that *The Onyx* will be present at programs and events that effect the black community. It is my vision that *The Onyx* will continue to give us food for thought and we will continue to have the pleasure of reading thought provoking accounts from the Black perspective.

Ebonics: Racist planned obsolescence

By DeeJay Mills

I am sure you all have heard of Ebonics; and the different reasons for its existence. The excuses range from helping students to learn proper English, to helping the teachers understand the children. Some even go as far as to say it should be a second language.

Ebonics is a part of something much larger. It is a tool to be implanted and used to attack Afrocentricity. Now one might (and probably will) ask me, what does Ebonics have to do with Afrocentricity? The answer is: Nothing.

For some time now, EuroAmerican scholars have been criticizing the use of Afrocentric curriculum, labeling it as "racist". Of course they refer to Eurocentric curriculum (currently used in nearly all schools) as "truth". The problem is that they have it backwards. As African American leaders are trying to encourage and bring Afrocentric Curriculum into the school systems, they are having trouble. When people in this country think "Afrocentricity", they associate it with "African American", while the two couldn't be any more different. With this in mind, notice how ridiculous the idea of Ebonics seemed and still does to most of us. One might not believe it, but this is the reaction that the media has created. This is the reaction that the powers that be want from us. They also count on the general public's association between "Afrocentricity" and "African American". Let's examine the word Ebonics. There are two parts: Ebony (referring to African Americans) and Phonics (referring to speech). Therefore, it is the speech of African Americans. Do all African Americans speak that way? No. So, why associate it with African Americans and not urbanites (who are the ones speaking it

mostly)? The answer is simple. The people who are responsible for it, want to destroy all hopes of Afrocentric curriculum.

The Boston Globe has already slipped the word "Afrocentric" into the mix while addressing Ebonics (see Ebonics: An Attempted Solution...). The supporters of this want us to associate the two. This way, in getting us to attack Ebonics, we will help to destroy what little progress we have made in implementing Afrocentric curriculum into our schools.

The truth is, that there is a problem with African American students in California learning 'Standard English'. The fact is that the school board in Oakland recognized this problem. The fact is, they acted on it. Whether this was the correct answer, who knows. I feel that there are other issues that need to be addressed. I don't feel that teaching the teachers to understand the language patterns that the students bring to the school is going to solve the problem. I do believe that it will help. What I believe would help more, would be to hire more teachers from the community considering that 85% of the teacher in the Oakland schools are white. They are not from the neighborhood. They say that it is supposed to give the students self-esteem. Of all the students at the Oakland schools, 94% are 'minorities'. How does one get self-esteem when he or she can not relate to the teacher?

Malcolm X (El Hajj Malik El Shabazz) stated: "Knowledge is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today." So let us prepare to board the plane into the righteous future with knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. Get the real facts instead of waiting for the media to give you theirs. PEACE

Onyx's Letter Policy...

The Onyx Informer welcomes letters from our readers. A letter to the editor or any of the stories printed needs the writer's full name, year, major or title, and phone number or E-mail address for verification. No anonymous letter's will be printed. Letters may be edited or not run due to time or space constraints. Do not write more than 500 words. Letters may be E-mailed to c.downing@lynx.nyu.edu, or mailed to the following address:

The Onyx Informer
 428 Curry Student Center
 360 Huntington Ave.

Sister

By Ayanna McCrae

You wear your brown like a crown,
 my sister.
 So beautiful and proud.
 So fun to be around.
 Your essence is shining and
 others are drawn
 to all the things you are
 and what you want to become
 my sister.

Stay right where you are
 and don't turn around.

Others need to see you
 and follow your example.

It would be an honor, if I
 could get a sample.
 Just a taste of that pride
 is all I need
 my sister.

You are strong,
 you are beautiful,
 you are black,
 my sister.

We must have more respect in our relationships

By Claude M. Sneed, Jr.

The 1996 *Statistical Abstract of the United States* states that in 1995, 10.7 percent of the black population divorced compared to 9.1 percent among people who are white. The 1995 *Statistical Abstract of the United States* stated that in 1992, 68.1 percent of black children were born out of wedlock while 22.6 percent of white children were. In 1994, 53 percent of black children were living with their mothers compared to 18 percent of white children. In 1991, 15.7 percent of the black population were receiving welfare (AFDC) while 2.8% of white people were doing the same.

The source of the above mentioned problems are many. One cause of these problems is that there is a great deal of disrespect among black people as a whole in regards to our relationships. Many people have difficulty maintaining relationships and don't know the true meaning of a relationship.

Often men will not have anything to do with women unless they look a certain way or have the proper "assets". Many times when they get involved with a young lady they do not care to really get to know her as a person. More often than not, they only want sex. Men that feel this way don't even try to establish relationships. In fact, many guys think they are "the man" if they can gather up a long list of sexual conquests. Many times these conquests result in babies being born and these men will generally not be around to help raise them.

Many men don't even know how to approach a woman. I can't recall how many times I have seen a nice looking sister walking down a street and

then some ignorant brother walks up and starts yelling "Yo Baby! Yo! Yo! Yo! Yoooo! Baby!", "Do fries come with that shake?", "Man! Baby got Back!" or something else real ignorant. Then they don't understand when very often, the young lady keeps walking by.

Men, do you realize that when you reduce our sisters to mere sexual beings you are doing the same thing that white slave masters did to them under the horrible system of slavery?

Real African-American men need to realize that African-American women or any women for that matter, are not sexual toys.

If you are not man enough to start a relationship with one woman where you can be faithful, then don't start one. If you are not man enough to take care of children that you may father in a sexual relationship, then you shouldn't be in such a relationship. *A mere beast can have children and leave them.* Value a woman based on her personality, her intelligence, her commitment to community and people and how she treats you, not just on looks alone. *This is a true man.*

What about women? I feel that a large amount of women nowadays are very selfish and materialistic. It seems like if you are not made of money and credit cards you will be left out in the cold. I once recall a young lady telling me "I don't want love. Love can't do anything for me. I want someone who is paid-period."

It seems that a lot of women have too many hang-ups. You may have to have money. You may have to be built like a world class body builder. You may have to be a member of a fraternity. You may have to be a dark skinned African-American male or you

may have to be a light skinned African-American male. How many times have you heard a young lady say "I am not going to talk to him! He is too dark!"? The "what can you do for me?" attitude runs rampant among many, young women today.

If all you want from a man is money, you are really selling yourself short. They do have feelings. Value a man for his intelligence, his personality, his concern for community and people and for the way he treats you. These things will be the things that bring you real, lasting benefit. *You are not being a real African-American woman when you judge brothers solely for what they can buy you or how important they can make you seem or feel.*

Black men and women have become blinded by superficial things and have bought into the European idea of what beauty is and have judged each other on these things.

These are *real issues* in the African-American community. I have experienced many of the things I have spoken about and I have observed them happen to other people. I wanted to bring them to light because we as a people will not advance at all until we all become real men and women and cultivate loving relationships based on trust and respect. We will not advance until we learn to love each other for the way we were brought into this world. We will not advance until we create strong families where all African-American children are properly raised and cared for by those who bring them into this world. I hope everyone who reads this will take what I say to heart and act upon it.

ASO wins appeal, board tries to stop publication

[NOTE: The chair of the Student Affairs Board, Ted Graham, asked Media Adviser Bob Sprague to withhold publication of the following account. Graham cited a confidentiality clause in the SAB's charter and claimed Angela Fielder, an Onyx reporter, had misrepresented herself. Sprague declined Graham's request and then advised The Onyx that student have a right to know how student boards arrive at their decisions. Fielder denies misrepresenting herself.]

By Angela Fielder

On Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1996, at 5 p.m. the Student Affairs Board held a meeting in which they discussed the appeal of the African Student Organization.

The Student Affairs Board (SAB) approves and disapproves of the formation of new clubs and decides whether or not to grant the budget appeals of student organizations.

During the 1995-96 school year the African Student Organization (ASO) had a \$0 budget for the entire year. Through the course of the year the organization received \$800 in special request money, and raised approximately \$6,000 on their own. The appeal focused on the fact that for the 1996-97 school year the ASO received only \$627, which is \$173 less than the special request money received last year.

In deciding whether or not to grant the appeal, the SAB judged the procedure of the Budget Review Committee (BRC) which allots the student organizations a budget for the school year. The SAB decided in favor of the ASO in lieu of the bias on the behalf of the BRC, who overlooked the special request money of \$800. Special request money comes out of the Midyear Fund.

The Midyear Fund has been set at \$10,000 per school year, 22 percent (\$2,200) of which is available to media groups. The other \$7,800 is available to the BRC.

The BRC took into consideration only the \$0 budget of the ASO for the 1995-96 school year and figured that a \$627 budget for the current year was more than the organization received last year. When the BRC allocates funds there are two factors that are taken into consideration:

- 1) if the group was responsible in keeping up their allocated funds and
 - 2) if the group received a \$0 budget for the previous year.
- In reference to the ASO, the organization fell under criteria number two for the 1995-96 school year and over the past few years the budget of the ASO has been low.

Another factor that was taken into consideration when deciding the budget of the ASO as well as all of the organizations, was the effectiveness of planning in the organization. Unfortunately, the BRC never looks at any special requests made the student organizations which leads to the potential problem of over, under, or no allocation of funds.

The motion to grant the appeal was made by SAB representative Mona Lisa Faz, and was seconded by SAB representative Ada Medina. The vote out of the seven people present goes as follows: 5 for the appeal, 0 against and 2 abstentions. The new granted ASO appeal will now go back to the BRC so that they can review the budget and allocate funds.

Further information was unavailable at press time.

COMING EVENTS

The Caribbean Student Organization is having a semi-formal/auction on Feb 28th in the Curry Ballroom. \$2 for auction paddle \$10 for general admission.

TempXpress and TTJ Professional Placements, Inc. will be conducting a job search on March 4th 1996 from 11:45 am to 1:00pm at the African-American Institute. ***bring resumes***

Harvard Black Law Students Association are having a dating game fundraiser at the Hark Pub in Harkness Commons at Harvard Law School March 1st at 8:30pm. \$5 admission.

Annual Northeastern Black Engineering Student Society Fashion Show will be held in Blackman Auditorium on March 28th.

Alone...

By Conway Downing

Alone...

I sit in my room oddly thinking of nothing and something at the same time...

Alone...

I walk down the streets with my head down at 3 o'clock in the morning breathing in the night air. Darkness remains my lone companion as I continue to trek through the night unafraid, undaunted, and all...

Alone...

I wait by the telephone...waiting patiently and impatiently for a phone call that will never come. A phone call that has not come in a week, a month, a year. Will it ever come? No one knows the answer to this question except God. Until that call comes I sit...

Alone...

I eat a meal that I can barely afford in a restaurant whose name I forget. I pretend not to hear the conversations that surround me by other patrons. I painstakingly try to enjoy the tasteless food that sits in front of me acting as if everything is just fine. But everything is not fine, is it? Something is bothering me as I sit here eating...

Alone...

I am trapped in a place where I don't want to be. In this unfriendly place I begin to realize how much I miss family and friends I've left behind at home. The people in this place do not seem to have any life or purpose. There is no warmth in this place only a vast coldness and melancholy sucking the marrow of this place dry. I feel myself drifting in to this cold world. It frightens me. No one is here to help me escape. I'm now all...

Alone...

All by myself with no one to turn to. I have found a cure for my loneliness, it sits in my hands cold shiny and black. My cure has over six chambers, but it only takes one key to open them all. My cure is staring me in the face and its lone eye is staring into both of mine as if to ask me; "Are you sure this is what you want?" In a flash I answer the question. My body goes limp. The darkness I wished to escape from is only intensified. But there is no way of escaping it. Oh God, what was I thinking?! Now I'm truly all...

Alone...

Student on the Move: Jerome Daniels

By Conway Downing

On November 23, 1996, Jerome Daniels was happy. With a dramatic 35 yard kick by NU's Brandon Hanes, the Huskies football team ended the season with a good record (6-5) for the first time in a decade. Not only did the Huskies finish with a winning record, they accomplished it by beating the University of New Hampshire, a team they had not beaten in over 23 years. Daniels, an offensive tackle, who had received numerous awards (All-America, All-New England and All-Yankee Conference) as a three year starter, and the rest of the Husky seniors could finish their careers as winners. Jerome Daniels was happy.

However, Daniels' happiness over his teams dramatic win over UNH was slightly over shadowed by a phone call from Bob Blackman, the head of the Shriners Committee that selects football players for the 72nd Annual Shrine Game.

"Mr. Blackman called Coach (Barry) Gallup and asked him what kind of guy and athlete that I was. He also asked if I was All-Americans material or if I was a trouble maker," said Daniels. "So basically, coach told him that I was a good guy and I would be honored to play in the game."

"So Mr. Blackman then called me and left a message on my machine asking me if I would be interested in playing in the Shrine game. And I replied, 'Heck yeah!' He then sent me the tickets and I was on my way."

As the lone representative from any New England university (Boston College

included) Daniels, a native of Hartford, CT, was indeed on his way. The nationally televised Shrine Game usually takes 74 of the best senior college football players from across America. And as a member of the East Squad, Daniels had the opportunity to be play with several top NFL prospects including offensive and defensive stand-outs, Mike Vrable from Ohio State and Myron Elzy from Central State, Emory Smith (NFL running back Emmitt Smith's younger brother) from Clemson and Robert Farmer from Notre Dame.

Daniels was also instrumental in helping the East to a 17-13 victory over their West counterparts. As a result of playing in the Shrine Game, Daniels chances of making it to the NFL have increased. The latest draft reports have predicted Jerome to be a third round selection. Thus, Daniels has an opportunity of being a member of a small fraternity of NU players to play in the NFL (the most recent being Sean Jones a vital defensive member of the Super Bowl Champion Green Bay Packers).

Ironically, with all the accolades and awards Daniels has received by playing football, he did not begin to play the sport until his senior year of highschool.

"I was always a basketball player, but I gained some weight during my senior year," Daniels says with a laugh. "So the football coach asked me if I would come out to play during my senior season. He told me if I just gave it a try then I would probably get a scholarship just because of my size. Back then I really didn't know

how to play football. I was just some big dude running up and down the field. It was only when I came to Northeastern when I really learned a lot on how to play better."

Besides Northeastern, other schools that recruited Daniels were big name programs such as Ohio State, Arizona State, Georgia Tech, and UCLA. However, Daniels became a Proposition 48 player, an NCAA ruling that allows students on athletic scholarships to attend a university but forces them to lose a year of playing eligibility due to inability to achieve a minimum score on SAT or ACT tests.

"Northeastern was my last resort. They gave me a chance, even though I was Prop 48. The other schools were just interested in me for my football ability and nothing else. When it came down to giving me that money for education, NU was the only school that put their money where mouth is."

As a Prop 48 player, Daniels agonized on the sidelines as NU struggled through their season to finish only 2-9 during his freshman year. Unfortunately, this trend of losing games only continued when Daniels was finally able to play in his sophomore and junior years. As a result of the teams poor showings during football season, school support for the program became non-existent.

"When I first came here I was frustrated! Because every game we played we would lose them by a touchdown or two. We all worked hard during the off-season so I knew that we could play better. And when we were losing everybody was hard on us. We had no school support and even our own newspaper (The NU



Jerome Daniels, center, along with Matt Vrable on the right and Matt Finkles, on the left.

News) would write negatively about us. When not even your own school doesn't support you, then how do they expect you to win?"

Daniels describes this past years team as a group of winners and says that he knew that the team was going to be good from the beginning of the year.

"Everybody on the team was committed to winning, even the freshmen. A couple of the freshmen even started because they were that focused. And we had an entire senior class that was not selfish. They were willing to do whatever it took to win, even if it meant stepping aside to let someone else play. Not one senior griped about playing time or starting. They understood that someone might be a little bit faster or the coach may have a specific play set-up for someone else."

"I mean we did a lot this year that no one expected us to do and I think that. I know that in the years to come more positive things are going to come. All this stuff is possible as long as there is a foundation. A base that contains a love for football and a love for each

other."

Daniels cites his mother as being the inspiration in his life and says all the things that he has been able to accomplish in his life are in large part due to her.

"I have this saying to let everyone know that I'm ready to play, 'Mama's coming to the game.' Now whether she is there or not it doesn't matter because mentally she is always with me. My mom is very important to me because she raised four smart children. And she put everything into making us physically strong, mentally strong and spiritually strong."

"And being a single mother I'm thankful that she taught me how to appreciate life and how to treat a woman. My mother taught me everything including how to be a man even though she wasn't a man herself. So when I'm out there playing, I play for her. Football is something that I excel in so it's my way of showing her that I'm doing something positive with my life. Hopefully through football, I'll be able to pay her back monetarily for all the sacrifices that she made for me."

Jerome Daniels is indeed happy.

Convocation

Continued from first page

President's award for achievement and justice.

The key-note speaker was Professor Christopher Edley,

Jr., of the Harvard Law School and former special Counsel to President Bill Clinton. He focused on three ideas in his speech: Generation, Mission and Redemption.

Edley said that his generation had failed King and his contemporaries by refusing to take up responsibility for the issues of the time. "King was so good at changing America," Edley said, "this

generation thought progress was inevitable."

The gains made by King's generation took "pain and perseverance," he said, adding that the "me-ism" complex, where the individual considers his own interests first, had pervaded society so much there was no one taking responsibility for the current ills in society. This was in direct contrast to the selflessness of King's peers which "led to [a] commitment to creating a better America."

Edley also said that redemption was the answer, but not in the spiritual sense. Edley said it was important to have a "belief in the possibility of redemption ... that things can be better." In this regard, there was a need for "identical experiences that [have] powerful, transformative force."

Ms. Danette Jones, director of Madison Park Development, responded to Edley's comments. "Faith without action is dead" she quoted from the Biblical Book of James. She called for a recommitment to action. "[We should] look for concrete opportunities to make these changes ... [There are] no quick fixes for some of the more difficult issues for our time."

Other speakers were Laura Waters, president of the Student Government Association, who read a selection from King's writings and speeches and Claude Sneed, president of Northeastern's Black Student Association, who introduced Professor Edley. Ms. Lula Petty-Edwards, director of the John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute, closed the ceremony with a vote of thanks.

Oratory

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two more awards were given to Sarah-Ann Shaw and dean Motley for many years of support and dedication. After receiving their plaques, they were told that the awards for the oratory will be in their honor (the freshmen awards will carry Shaw's name while the upperclassmen award will be named after Motley). At the end of the night Fitzpatrick, Steward, and Matos walked off with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place respectively for the freshmen division of the competition. While Okoawo, Griffith, and Raynor took the prizes for the placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively for the upperclassmen.



Photo by Nürri